

DD/A Registry

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10 September 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Regulations Control Division,
Office of Information Services, DDA

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FROM:

[Redacted]
Executive Officer,
Office of Medical Services

SUBJECT: Publication of Employee Bulletin

It is requested that the attached draft of "Voluntary Influenza Virus Immunization" be published as an ALL EMPLOYEE BULLETIN (opposed to 1-6 distribution) and that it be published no later than 1 October 1981.

Attachment

✓cc: Executive Officer, DDA



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VOLUNTARY INFLUENZA VIRUS IMMUNIZATION

1. The Office of Medical Services will administer immunizations against influenza from 19 through 23 October 1981. Immunizations will be administered at the Headquarters Building between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Schedules for immunizations at Agency satellite buildings will be individually arranged by the Nursing Office. Employees will be advised by their administrative offices of the time and place for the immunizations for their component.

2. Influenza virus infections may be asymptomatic or they may produce a spectrum of symptoms varying from fever, chills, cough, and muscle aches to pneumonia and death. Influenza-related deaths occur primarily in the elderly, children, and those individuals with chronic illnesses such as diabetes or heart, lung, or kidney disease.

3. No evidence has been presented to suggest that influenza immunization of pregnant women presents any special maternal or fetal risk. Pregnant women, therefore, should be evaluated for influenza vaccination according to the same criteria applied to other individuals.

4. The influenza vaccine for 1981-82 will consist of an inactivated trivalent preparation of A/Brazil, A/Bangkok and B/Singapore. A single dose is recommended for those regardless of age, who received at least one dose of influenza vaccine in the preceding three years. Those 28 years old and younger who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time should have two doses four or more weeks apart. If you are 29 years or older you need only one dose.

5. Fever, malaise, muscle aching, and other toxic symptoms may occur six to twelve hours after immunization and last one to two days. These symptoms are usually attributed to the virus itself even though the vaccine is an inactivated preparation. In some individuals, an immediate allergic reaction occurs and is attributable to a vaccine component, usually egg protein. Those individuals with known allergy to eggs should not receive the influenza vaccine. In a small percentage of individuals, serious neurological symptoms may be a complication. This condition, known as Guillain-Barre Syndrome, is characterized by ascending paralysis and is usually self-limited and reversible. In some individuals, however, there may be residual weakness or paralysis. The mortality rate is 5 percent.

6. The Director of Medical Services recommends influenza immunization for older employees and those with chronic illnesses such as diabetes or heart, lung, or kidney disease.